

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of aligning ~~Transmission Time Intervals~~ transmission time intervals of physical channels in the uplink and downlink directions of a bidirectional radio communication system, the method comprising:

measuring or estimating the response processing delay at a user terminal;

delaying the ~~Transmission Time Intervals~~ transmission time intervals of an uplink physical channel with respect to a corresponding downlink physical channel or channels by an amount dependent upon the measurement or estimate.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said bidirectional radio communication system is a WCDMA system.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount by which the ~~Transmission Time Intervals~~ transmission time intervals (TTIs) of the uplink physical channel are delayed is the minimum number of radio frame time intervals required to exceed the response processing delay.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said data is data which generates an automatic response on the part of the user terminal.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said response contains an acknowledgement to the sender of the data.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the user terminal measures its response processing delay and computes the amount of delay to be applied to uplink ~~Transmission Time Intervals~~ transmission time intervals based upon that measurement, and signals that delay amount to the Radio Access Network of the WCDMA system.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the response processing delay is measured by the user terminal and is transmitted to the ~~Radio Access Network~~ radio access network, and the ~~Radio Access Network~~ radio access network determines an appropriate delay amount based upon the received measurement, and sends the delay amount to the user terminal.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the response processing delay or an uplink ~~Transmission Time Interval~~ transmission time interval delay amount is pre-programmed into a memory of the user terminal.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the response processing delay or an uplink ~~Transmission Time Interval~~ transmission time interval delay amount is sent from the user terminal to the ~~Radio Access Network~~ radio access network.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the ~~Radio Access Network~~radio access network uses the received response processing delay or an uplink ~~Transmission Time Interval~~transmission time interval delay amount to determine the delay amount for the said user terminal and, optionally, for other user terminals communicating with the ~~Radio Access Network~~radio access network.

11. (currently amended) A user terminal for use with a bidirectional radio communication system, the terminal comprising means for delaying the ~~Transmission Time Intervals~~transmission time intervals of an uplink physical channel with respect to those of a corresponding downlink physical channel or channels by an amount dependent upon a measurement or estimate of the response processing delay of the terminal.

12. (original) A terminal according to claim 11 and comprising means for measuring the response processing delay or a memory for storing a predefined response processing delay or delay amount.

13. (currently amended) A ~~Radio Network Controller~~radio network controller for use in a Radio Access Network of a WCDMA system, the ~~Controller~~controller comprising means for processing uplink physical channels taking into account delays, relative to the corresponding downlink physical channels, in the Transmission Time Intervals introduced by the sending user terminals based upon respective measures or estimates of the user terminal processing powers.

14. (currently amended) A method of controlling the broadcast power levels at a node of a bidirectional communication system, the method comprising sending power control signals to said node from a peer node at regular intervals on an uplink channel, the uplink and downlink channels being ~~synchronised~~synchronized to ensure correct correlation between the power control signals and the respective broadcast power levels, the power control signals being delayed with respect to the downlink signal by an amount dependent upon ~~the~~a response processing delay at said peer node.

15. (new) A method in claim 14, wherein the response processing delay is a time for said peer node, after receiving a message on a downlink channel from said node, to have a response ready to the received message to send over the uplink channel to said node.

16. (new) A radio network controller in claim 13, wherein the respective measures or estimates of the user terminal processing power is based on a time required for the user terminal, after receiving a message over a downlink channel, to have a response to the received message ready to send over an uplink channel.

17. (new) A user terminal according to claim 11, wherein the measurement or estimate of the response processing delay of the terminal is based on a time required for the user terminal, after reviewing a message over a downlink channel, to have a response to the message ready to send over an uplink channel.

18. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the response processing delay is based on a time required for the user terminal, after reviewing a message over a downlink channel, to have a response to the message ready to send over an uplink channel.